

On Friday January 20, 2023, DPI offered Office Hours with Sherry Thomas, Senior Director Office of Exceptional Children, Dr. Carol Ann Hudgens, Section Chief for Policy Monitoring and Audit, and Perry Flynn, Consultant for Speech Language Pathology to answer any questions regarding the update to the Hearing Screening guidance that was published to Directors of Exceptional Children on Wednesday January 18, 2023. The following questions were submitted during the session.

**Question 1. Is hearing screening required prior to completing a psychological or educational?**

If consent is obtained to conduct a hearing screening, it is recommended that the hearing screening is conducted prior to completing a psychological or educational evaluation. If a student does not pass a hearing screening, it is recommended that EC staff determine, in consultation with the evaluator(s), whether the evaluations can proceed with fidelity according to assessment protocols while screening concerns are resolved.

Whenever possible and without compromising the results of the assessment, evaluations should continue concurrently while problem-solving the results of the hearing screening.

**Question 2. Along the lines of existing data items just reviewed, should SLPs versus nurses complete the hearing screening for EC Eligibility whenever speech-language concerns are present?**

Nurses CAN conduct the screening, but it represents best practice for SLPs to complete the hearing screening for areas where a speech-language evaluation is being completed.

**Question 3. Has the new document [updated guidance 1/18/23] been shared out?**

The document was attached to the EC Directors Weekly Update on Wednesday January 18, 2023, and was shared to the Speech-Language Pathologists listserv on Monday January 23, 2023.

**Question 4. After reading, I still would appreciate a definitive answer on the following: Can nurses complete hearing screening for IDEA eligibility if SLI is the area of disability under consideration (where speech-language evaluation would be required)? .....**

Yes, nurses CAN conduct hearing screenings for an SLI eligibility evaluation, but it represents best practice for the SLP to conduct this screening and for any other area of IDEA eligibility where a speech-language evaluation is being completed.